

License Plates for Michigan's Historical Vehicles

Michigan, automobile capital of the world, has many residents who collect and restore antique vehicles. Since 1956, the state has allowed a special, inexpensive vehicle registration for older vehicles that are on the road only occasionally.

Many antique cars, trucks, and motorcycles qualify for special registration as Michigan historical vehicles. A qualifying vehicle may be registered with the Michigan Secretary of State either with a Michigan historical vehicle plate, or an actual Michigan license plate of the same year the vehicle was manufactured.

A Historical vehicle must be:

- ❖ More than 25 years old.
- ❖ Owned solely as a collector's item
- ❖ Used only for events such as historical club activities, parades, and car shows.

Note: A designated historical vehicle cannot be used for routine transportation.

Historical Vehicle Plate

The Michigan historical vehicle plate is navy blue with yellow lettering. It has six numbers (four if a motorcycle plate). Historical vehicle plates are available for a \$30 fee, and are valid for ten years. To obtain one, present the following items at any Secretary of State branch office:

- (A) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (B) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (C) \$30 fee (*make checks payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (D) The completed application located below.

If you do not have the original title or a copy of it, present a previous registration document as proof of ownership. Your historical vehicle plate will be mailed from Lansing to the address on the registration within two weeks.

Authentic License Plate

Michigan also allows you to use a same-year general use Michigan license plate to register an antique vehicle. Reproduction plates are not allowed. The registration fee is \$35. An authentic plate registration processed after January 1, 1997, is valid until you sell, transfer, scrap, or modify the vehicle. Authentic license plates must be registered by mail, *and are not handled by any Secretary of State branch offices*. To obtain a registration, send the following items to the address listed on the application below:

- (A) A photocopy of the license plate (passenger, commercial, or trailer) you plan to use (*do not mail the original plate*). *Personalized, governmental, law enforcement, manufacturer, dealer, intransit repair, disability, and special purpose license plates cannot be used as authentic license plates. If in doubt, check with the Department before purchasing a license plate.*
- (B) Proof of ownership, preferably a copy of the title.
- (C) Proof of Michigan no-fault insurance.
- (D) \$35 fee (*make checks payable to "State of Michigan"*).
- (E) The completed application located below.

You will receive a new registration within two to three weeks.

From 1956 to 1988, historical vehicle plates were issued with no expiration date. **All plates issued before January 1, 1988, expired April 15, 1993.** Historical vehicle and authentic plates issued between January 1, 1988, and January 1, 1997, expire on April 15 the fifth year after issuance or renewal.

Application and Certification

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------------|------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Name | | | Street Address | | |
| City | | | State | ZIP | County |
| Vehicle Year | Make | Body Style | Vehicle Number | | |
| Authentic Plate No. <i>(if desired)</i> | | Plate Year | Driver License or ID Number* | | |

Certification: I certify that this historical vehicle is owned solely as a collector's item and is used only for historical club activities, parades, car shows, etc., **and not for routine transportation.**

*Please enclose on a separate sheet the names and Michigan driver license or personal ID number of any and all co-owners of the vehicle. If co-owner(s) do not have a Michigan driver license or personal ID, please list their residence and mailing address.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To renew or obtain a Historical Vehicle Plate by mail, follow directions on the reverse side and mail this application with appropriate enclosures to:

Bureau of Driver & Vehicle Records • Michigan Department of State
7064 Crowner Drive • Lansing, MI 48918-1530
(517) 322-1473



www.michigan.gov/sos